THE

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THOUGHTS

OF A

TRUE BRITON

Concerning

GIBRALTAR.

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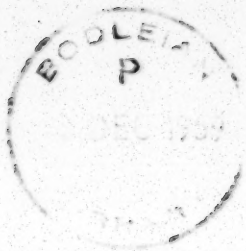

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TO THE

READER.

THE Custom now very much in vogue, among Authors, to take from others the best Part of their Writings, without the least Acknowledgment, is, in my Opinion, no lawful Authority for me to follow their Steps; and therefore I think my self

oblig'd, in Juſtice to the Perſon I took this from, to own that I am beholden for it to the Author of a Weekly Paper called the *Cenſor*; with ſome few Additions of my own, as, among others, the Thoughts of a true *Briton*, in Anſwer to a Libel entitled, *A Continuation of the Letters*, &c.

GIBRAL-

GIBRALTAR,

OR, THE

PRETENDER, &c.

WE were lately amus'd and entertain'd with the Particulars of a pretended Delivery of *Rabbets* from a *Woman*'s Labour. And now, we are threaten'd with the approaching Birth of a prodigious *Monſter* from the Labour of a *Mountain* in *Spain*.

The *Spaniards*, to ſhew the World that they have ſtill ſomething left in them of the antient Valour ſo much exalted by the admirable *Cervantes*, in his *Don Quixotte*, are now come before *Gibraltar*, fully reſolv'd to take that Place, coſt what it will. And to put ſo grand a Deſign in Execution, beſides

ſides the extraordinary Enchantments promis'd them by a new made Prophecy of the old and renowned *Urgando*, they are provided with all the Materials neceſſary for a long and vigorous Siege.

The unaccountable Atchievements to be perform'd by the great Number of Knights Errant, who are to be dubb'd before this important Place which they are to take will, no doubt, render their Memory immortal. Beſides, we are told, that howſoever terrible *Things* may appear there in the Sight of other People ſuch *Bug-bears* will not dazle the Piercing *Eyes*, nor ſhake the undaunted *Hearts* of theſe *Champions*, at whoſe approach the very Walls of *Gibraltar* will not only drop down, but even the ſteep Rocks ſhall be levell'd like a Plain, for their more eaſy entering into the Place: And, to crown the whole Performance, for their own Security, the Fire from the Fortreſs ſhall have no Force againſt them. Theſe, I muſt confeſs, are very great Wonders!

ders! But what is there, that muſt not be expected and fear'd from ſuch dreadful Men? Sure, the poor *Indians* of *Mexico* had not more reaſon to dread ſuch extraordinary Men, as the *Spaniards* did then appear to them, than our Garriſon of *Gibraltar* have now to tremble at the very thoughts of the extraordinary Wonders they are threaten'd with from the *Off-ſpring* of thoſe *Demi-Gods* that conquer'd *India*.

We find in the true Hiſtory of *Don Quixotte*, that its Heroe was a bold and enterprizing Man; one, who defy'd a frightful and terrible Lyon in a ſingle Combat, not to mention all the monſtrous and terrifying Giants he was always ready to encounter, notwithſtanding the great Power of the moſt unaccountable Enchantments often made uſe of, to rob him of that Glory which was ſo deſervedly due to him, on account of his moſt ſhining Attempts. But now, the Caſe is to be alter'd; and all Enchantments are

to favour the *Spaniards*, who, like that great Man, are capable, even without Enchantment, of performing the great Atchievements their Maſter propoſes to execute without Money: With this only difference, that their Predeceſſor's Wonders were perform'd in behalf of the *Fair Sex*; whereas the chief Motive of their Undertakings, is their King's Service, and that of their Holy Mother the Church of *Rome*.

The Age we live in is, I know, ſo plaguy Incredulous, that many will give no Credit to what I have juſt ſaid; particularly ſuch as were in *Spain* during the laſt War. But for their further Satisfaction, and to ſhew the World that I have no mind to impoſe fabulous Stories upon them, I think my ſelf oblig'd to refer them, beſides many others I could quote, to the true Hiſtory of thoſe antient Heroes among the *Gauls*, who, under the Name of *Amadis*, did far greater Wonders than thoſe which the *Spaniards* do now threaten us with. Be-

Beſides, it is very well known, that as Men do often change in their Ways of Living, ſo do Nations too in their Valour and Method of making War. It is not long ſince the *Spaniards* were reckoned but indifferent Soldiers; but now, being headed by Heroes, they may prove to be as ſtout and expert in warlike Diſcipline, as the *Romans* of old were. We have ſeen the Time when the *Spaniards* could do nothing for want of Money; but now they may find, through an extraordinary Art, the Way of making War without the trifling Metal call'd Money, and even beſtow, on their Friends and Allies, the little Treaſure they may be ſuppos'd to have in their Coffers. Where is the Wonder in all theſe Things, that comes not ſhort of the miraculous Changes and Undertakings, related in the true Hiſtories I have already mentioned? And ſure, ſince all wiſe Men know, that what has been may be, the Wonders here related may be allowed to be probable.

Ay, but, ſays a Friend of mine, who ſhall be nameleſs, on account of his odd Way of Reaſoning, you tell us nothing but Romantick Stories, ſuch as your Friend *Gulliver* was lately pleas'd to preſent us with: For the Hiſtories you mention are no better than Romances; which, thanks to the Wiſdom of the Age we live in, are now out of Doors. He might thus run on further againſt the moſt notorious Truths, were it not for the Opportunity he gives me of interrupting him, by a manifeſt Contradiction in his Words, which plainly ſhew him to be in the wrong: For he ſays, that Romances are now out of Doors; and yet he names among them Captain *Gulliver*'s true Hiſtory, than which, I am ſure, none of the beſt Hiſtories we ever had, can pretend to a greater Vogue.

Methinks, from what I have ſaid, I hear ſome Gentlemen aſſert, that *Gulliver* has nothing to do with the King of *Spain*'s Undertakings, and that his

his Hiſtory, whether true or falſe, is nothing to the purpoſe, no more than the Romances I have mention'd; inſtead of which I ſhould give ſome plauſible Reaſons why his *Catholick* Majeſty, notwithſtanding the diſadvantageous Circumſtances every body knows him to be under, not to talk of the Injuſtice of his Deſigns, is ſo raſh as to attempt the Siege of *Gibraltar*, if not an Expedition in favour of the *Pretender*?

To theſe ſerious Gentlemen I muſt anſwer, that what I have ſaid is, I think, very much to the purpoſe; and that *Gulliver's* Hiſtory has more to do with the King of *Spain*'s Undertakings, than they imagine. Let them either ſtudy with Attention the Enigmas in that Book, or apply themſelves to its Author for a true Solution in this Caſe; and then, I am ſure, they will be ſatiſfy'd that I don't talk out of the Way. And, as for their requiring of me ſome plauſible Reaſons for his *Catholick* Majeſty's Conduct, I think the Requeſt is

a little too hard upon me; and looks as if I were oblig'd to anſwer for other Men's Actions, which however I cannot be ſuppos'd to be accountable for, eſpecially for thoſe of a Prince I have no Obligations to, and whom I never had the Honour to ſee ſo much as once. But perhaps the Gentlemen who ſeem willing to put me upon this, and may be moſt of my Readers too, for ought I know will ask why I undertake to argue on this Head, if I have no mind, or am not able to anſwer the Queſtions and Objections which, in Reaſon, may be made on this Subject? Well, what muſt I do in this Caſe? Why, as hard a Task as this is, I will endeavour to ſatisfy my Readers, tho' I am afraid ſome of them will not like my future Reaſons much better than thoſe I have already given. which, in my humble Opinion, were very ſtrong, notwithſtanding their being thought romantick by ſome of my Readers.

That

That the King of *Spain* is a ſuperior Genius in Politicks, as well as in Judgment, is a Truth ſo well known, that there would be no Occaſion of my giving ſome Inſtances of it, were it not that Men are now-a-days ſtrangely incredulous. Therefore let them but remember, with Admiration, his ſending *Ripperda* to *Vienna*, with Power to tranſact there, what was neceſſary for a famous Treaty; then, let them behold his *Catholick* Majeſty's placing that truſty Miniſter at the Head of all the Affairs in the *Spaniſh* Monarchy: And, even afterwards, his confining him as a *Traytor*, perhaps for a Pretence to inſult the *Engliſh* Ambaſſador, who had granted his Maſter's Protection to that ſeemingly diſgrac'd *Favourite*, on account of his being diſcharg'd from his King's Service.

Another Inſtance of the King of *Spain*'s ſublime Genius, is the wiſe Choice of his *conſummate Council* and *skilful Generals*, with whom he has contriv'd

triv'd the propereſt Means to force the *Pretender* upon us, after having conſulted thereupon with the *brighteſt* Men among our *Fugitives*.

His *Catholick* Majeſty's natural Bent to Martial Actions, is a Thing which no Mortal can diſpute; ſince, by it alone, and not through the Aſſiſtance of his Grandfather, as ſome prejudic'd Men have imagin'd, he gain'd and maintain'd the Crown of *Spain*, againſt almoſt all *Europe*; but chiefly in oppoſition to the formidable Power of the Emperor of *Germany*. It was then he had Occaſion, in following his moſt darling Inclination, to inſpire his Subjects with that martial Spirit which is now ſo much dreaded. It is true, that he voluntarily abdicated the Crown in behalf of his late Son, and led, for ſome Time, a retired Life; but this was a Sketch of his conſummate Policy: Neither did he, all that while, abate any Thing of his deep Deſigns, and of that noble Ambition which is ſo much admir'd in him.

His

His Goodneſs appears in a ſhining Manner, in the extraordinary Complaiſance he ſhews to his Queen; there being nothing of Moment that he ever offers to do without her Participation. And another bright Inſtance of his great Goodneſs, is his Reconciliation with the preſent Emperor, who, from a mortal Enemy, has obtain'd very great Conceſſions, and ſuch as the beſt Friend and Benefactor could hardly have expected.

His Devotion is ſo great, that, tho' a King, his unlimited Obedience and Submiſſion to his Clergy, cannot but convince the World of his true Zeal for the Church of *Rome*; and that he juſtly deſerves from the Pope the Title he bears of *His Catholick Majeſty*. It is true, that this *Catholick* King is juſtly charg'd with ſwerving from the Treaties he has made; but then, it is through a Principle of Religion and Goodneſs, that his former Promiſes are contradicted, in favour of the new

ones he was oblig'd to make, at the Inſtigat on of both his beloved Conſort, and the Directors of his Conſcience; for which there is no doubt but he had an Abſolution from the Pope, who may be ſuppos'd to be chiefly concerned in the Meaſures his *Catholick* Majeſty has taken. This Conſideration was the Occaſion of my taking notice of the King of *Spain*'s Goodneſs and Devotion, to ſhew ſome of the Motives that induc'd that Prince to his Reconciliation with the Emperor, and to manifeſt his Zeal for the *Pretender*'s Intereſt; towards which his Subjects, who want neither Zeal, Wiſdom, nor Mettle, are as well diſpos'd as he can deſire, to ſacrifice all that is dear to them.

Beſides theſe Motives of his Catholick Majeſty, the Reality of which can hardly be deny'd; his Intereſt in reſpect to both his Family and his Kingdoms, may have had ſome Influence in his Conduct, as I hope to make it appear.

The

The King of *Spain*'s Motives of Intereſt, are firſt, That which relates to the aggrandizing of his Family, which is a thing known to go a great way with Men that have a perfect Love for their Children; eſpecially ſuch as have a large Family, as his *Catholick* Majeſty. The Emperor has no Male Iſſue; and who knows but that his *Imperial* Majeſty has promis'd to procure the *Empire*, through his great Intereſt, to one of the King of *Spain*'s Sons, with ſome other conſiderable Eſtabliſhments for ſuch of that numerous Family as ſhall happen to be unprovided? By theſe Means he may hope to unite again the *Empire* with the Kingdoms of *Spain*, and prepare, for his Succeſſors, a way to an *Univerſal Monarchy*.

And, as for the Intereſt which may concern his Kingdoms, his ſiding with the *Pretender* ſeems to promiſe them ſome conſiderable Advantage, becauſe, beſides the Zeal for the Propagation of *Popery*, which the *Spaniards* have in common

with their King, the leaſt thing to be expected by them for their powerfully aſſiſting our *Malecontents*, muſt be the Reſtitution of *Gibraltar* and *Minorca*, which being now poſſeſſed by *Hereticks*, as they call us, cannot but be a plaguy Thorn on the ſide of the *old Chriſtians*, as all true *Spaniards* are known to ſtile themſelves.

Induc'd by all the Motives I have mentioned, the *Catholick* King may be ſuppos'd to have entered into the Meaſures he is known to have taken: And 'tis probable, that the great Hopes he has all along entertain'd, from the powerful Alliance he has made with the *Emperor* of *Germany*, and the *Empreſs* of *Ruſſia*, beſides the *Pope* and many other Princes, not to mention here the great Promiſes of Aſſiſtance he may have from our *diſaffected People*; it is probable, I ſay, from all theſe Conſiderations, that his *Catholick* Majeſty is willing to embrace all Opportunities of quarrelling with us. And he thinks we have now given him a ſufficient and plauſible Provocation, by

ſending

ſending and keeping a Squadron of Men of War before *Porto-Bello*, and another upon the Coaſts of *Spain*.

This is the Reaſon given for offering to beſiege *Gibraltar*, or for preparing towards another *Coup d'Eclat* againſt us. However, ſome Men cannot help being ſurpriz'd at the extraordinary Preparations made by the *Spaniards*, when their known want of Money might have been ſuppos'd to have retarded, at leaſt for ſome time, their ſo much talk'd of Enterprize. But I was lately told, upon this Occaſion, that the *Spaniards* will do more with a *Penny* than others with a *Teſter*, becauſe they have the Art of living upon Nothing, or next to Nothing; the Concluſion of which Story, was, that they are not ſo much concern'd for the long *Stay* of their *Galleons*, as we imagine. It is for this Reaſon, I ſuppoſe, that one of my Friends was telling me this very Day, that if the King of *Spain* undertakes the Siege of *Gibraltar*, he will certainly take it. This, I muſt confeſs, was ſomething ſurprizing to me, which made

made me ask the Gentleman, the Reaſon why his *Catholick* Majeſty did not take that Place in the laſt War, when it was not ſo ſtrong as now, and when he was about five Months before it, with the Aſſiſtance of *France*, in both Men and Ships? His anſwer was, that then they were not all *Spaniards*: From which, concluding that his Meaning was the *French* could not live as the *Spaniards* can, I was going to ask him another Queſtion, when prevented by another Perſon who interrupted us. Whether the want of a further Information from my Friend, on this Particular, is a great Loſs, or not, I leave it to the Deciſion of my Readers.

'Tis ſtrange, how Men differ in their Notions, on any Subject whatſoever! I thought that what I have ſaid was ſo well grounded, that nothing of t could be found Fault with. But a Critick of my Acquaintance, who is but juſt now gone from me, has left behind him, freſh in my Memory, Objections

jections and Arguments enough, to confound the beſt Lay-ſyſtems in the World.

He read all I have ſaid in behalf of both the King of *Spain* and his Subjects; and then my ſneering Gentleman, having, to confute my Arguments, put ſome few Queſtions upon me, and receiv'd my Anſwers, went on thus: If his *Catholick* Majeſty is ſo great a Politician, and his Council ſo wiſe, as repreſented, how comes it about that they do not foreſee the vigorous Oppoſition they are to meet with in all their Undertakings? For, their vaſt Deſigns being known all over the World, it could not be ſuppos'd that the ſeveral Potentates, whoſe Intereſt it is to oppoſe them, ſhould tamely look, with an indifferent Eye, on the Meaſures taken to diſturb the Tranquility of *Europe*.

And as the Defenſive Alliance of *Hanover*, was a natural Conſequence of thoſe pernicious Meaſures; ſo, likewiſe, the great Preparations now made, were

to

to be expected by the Allies of *Vienna*, who, since they are so very forgetful in respect to the great and known Strength of the three chief Maritim Nations in *Europe*, may very well deserve being made sensible of that Truth, to their own Sorrow, by some fresh Instances, of it from *England*, *France* and *Holland*; such as they are like to experience e're it be long.

Their forgetfulness is also very great in relation to the *Pretender*, who will always prove a *Stumbling-Block* to his *Protectors*. They should remember what extraordinary Losses *France* has sustain'd upon that very Account only; and they should consider how frivolous and ill grounded the Hopes of Success have prov'd to be, in all the Attempts made in his behalf.

I can see no very great Piece of Policy iu the King of *Spain*'s sending *Ripperda* to transact, at *Vienna*, a Treaty, which may soon discover that the Authors of it were very short in their Politicks.

ticks. The ſame thing may be ſaid of whatever was done by, or in reſpect to, that ſeemingly diſfavour'd *Duke*, whether his Diſgrace was real or not. And, as for the Wiſdom of his *Catholick* Majeſty's Council, and the Skilfulneſs of his Generals, we muſt wait for the Events of his great Undertakings, before our taking for granted what is ſaid of them.

If the King of *Spain* is ſuch a Wiſe Prince as aſſerted, how comes he to be ſo eaſy, as to be govern'd, not only by his Queen, but alſo by the Directors of his Conſcience, which in private Men would be called Prieſt-ridden and Hen-peck'd? He may love his Queen, and have a due Regard to his Clergy, without the leaſt Obligation of conſulting them in all his State-Affairs. He may forgive and be reconciled, without being oblig'd to give what he has no Right to beſtow, nor be oblig'd to fall out with the beſt of his Friends, out of Complaiſance to a reconciled Enemy, and follow the Dictates of his new Friend's Miniſter, as if they

were ſo many Laws binding his Conſcience to execute them, even againſt a near Relation, and a Nation he is exceedingly beholden to.

His Goodneſs would ſhine much brighter, ſhould he endeavour to prevent the Effuſion of Blood, inſtead of promoting it, as may be ſurmis'd from his ſwerving from Treaties, and following the Advices, or Dictates, already mentioned, with the Directions, in State-Affairs, of a Father-Confeſſor, through a miſguided Zeal; which can never authorize the leaſt Breach of Publick Faith, notwithſtanding the *Romiſh*, or any other, Abſolution.

It is certain that Goodneſs and Devotion, are no incompatible Things with either Policy or Heroiſm; but it would be hard to find either a Politician, or a Heroe, where Goodneſs ſhould appear to proceed from an Eaſineſs of Temper only, without the neceſſary Government of Reaſon, which has always a due regard

to

to Gratitude and Juſtice; and where Devotion ſhould ſeem to ſpring from a blind Zeal only, without the leaſt help of true Reaſon, which cannot fail making Men ſenſible that true Devotion doth never require any thing againſt Juſtice and Gratitude, notwithſtanding all the difference of Religion, which in this Caſe might be alledg'd.

We read in the Parables, which our Saviour left us for our Inſtruction, that a wiſe Man will not undertake a Building, without firſt ſetting down to calculate the Expences neceſſary towards it, in order to ſee whether or no his Purſe can ſupply all his Wants: And, which is a Royal Compariſon worthy of a Catholick King, who might be ſuppos'd to be well vers'd in Holy Scriptures, that a wiſe Prince being threaten'd with an Invaſion from a Neighbour, to make good certain Demands, is to conſider whether he has a ſufficient Force to oppoſe his threatning Neighbour, before he gives a negative Anſwer, or before

he offers to encounter ſuch an Enemy. Sure, the ſame Conſideration is required in the threatning Prince, as well as in him who is to defend himſelf. Now, the Queſtion is, whether or no his *Catholick* Majeſty has rightly examin'd his own, and the Power of the Potentate he doth threaten and offer to attack? But it doth not appear to me, that he has: For, without the ſafe arrival of his loaded *Galleons*, he cannot propoſe to do much by his own Strength, nor by that of his Allies, who, at leaſt ſome of them, will hardly move without Money; neither can he expect much from his new Allies the *Muſcovites*, not only becauſe they are too remote, but alſo becauſe Care is taken to watch their Motion, in order to ſtop their Undertakings.

As for his *Catholick* Majeſty's Motives of Intereſt, in reſpect to both his Family and his Kingdoms, it is moſt certain that ſuch Inducements are commendable, when lawful Means to promote

mote Intereſt are made uſe of. But, if we are told that the *Noble Ambition* of a Prince, his *Martial-Bent*, and *Abſolution for breaking Treaties*, under pretence, not only of propagating his own Religion, but alſo of enlarging his Dominions, and the *Proſpect* or *Hopes of Succeſs* from his own Power, or that of his mighty Allies and our Malecontents, are ſufficient Motives to engage *Europe* in a War, I cannot forbear ſaying, that ſuch Inducements are not only unreaſonable, but even very unjuſt.

But, without ſaying that the King of *Spain* is ſuch a Prince, what Advantage can he in reaſon propoſe to himſelf, by the War he ſeems inclined to force upon us? Sure, he has not quite forgot the Power of *England*, *France* and *Holland*, both by Sea and Land; which, without the help of Others, is more than able to cope with double his Alliance: So that his Hopes from his powerful Allies will hardly prove better to him, than thoſe he may entertain from the *Pope* and the *Pretender*. If

If the *Spaniards* can live upon *Nothing*, or next to *Nothing*, it is reaſonable to expect that, far from being ſo Stout as repreſented, they will be ſo impair'd by the want of Nature's *Refreſhment*, that their *Blows* will be but ſlender; and that being hardly able to ſtand their Ground, much Strength will not be required to knock them down. For it is very well known, that empty *Purſes* make empty *Bellies*, and empty *Bellies* empty *Heads*; none of which can be reckoned fit *Inſtruments* for War. But how the Subjects of *Spain* have been inſpir'd with a *Martial Spirit*, Time muſt ſhew it: For we ſee nothing of it yet; unleſs their renewed *Rhodomontados* can be allowed to be taken for *Actions*, inſtead of their *Shadow*.

I don't queſtion but King *Philip* was as willing to take *Gibraltar*, when he beſieged it before, as he may be now: Neither do I doubt but the *French* were, at leaſt, as eager for its being taken, as the *Spaniards* themſelves. And if they were

were forc'd to raiſe the Siege of that Place, after having been about five Months before it, I dare ſay it was none of their Fault: For the Attacks were carried on pretty vigorouſly, both by Sea and Land; though the contrary is pretended by ſome Gentlemen, who ſay, that the Beſiegers were not then numerous enough, and that they were but poor and ſickly Men. But ſuppoſing this Aſſertion of theirs was true, they may take this Anſwer, *that what has been may be again.*

And indeed, I cannot imagine how the *Spaniards* by themſelves, or with the help of the *Muſcovites*, can pretend to do more now at *Gibraltar*, than they did before. The *French*, who were then for that Siege, are againſt it at preſent. And the Help of the *Ruſſians* is not like to prove very conſiderable in this; becauſe their Ships may be as long coming out of their Harbours, as the *Spaniſh* Galleons out of *Porto-Bello*. Beſides, we have ſtill the *Dutch* for us:

And

And it cannot be deny'd but their Force, or that of *France*, will eaſily counterbalance the *Czarina*'s mighty Power, in reſpect to this Siege; where the Beſiegers muſt expect greater Difficulties, than before, becauſe the Place is now much ſtronger, and we better able to relieve it than formerly. It is true, that there are more ways than one, through which a ſtrong Place may be taken; but I hope we are in no danger of *Gibraltar*'s being betray'd, either to the *Spaniards* or the *Pretender*.

Whatever the Event of this great Noiſe proves to be, it is moſt certain that the *Spaniards* are before *Gibraltar*. And the reaſon for this, or any other Undertaking from his *Catholick* Majeſty, is not only the Pretence that the Reſtitution of that Place was promis'd him upon ſome Equivalent, but alſo that our ſending a Squadron of Men of War on the Coaſts of *Spain*, and another to *Porto-Bello*, were Acts of Hoſtility. But all theſe Pretences are frivolous, and very ill grounded. For, ſuppoſing ſome Hopes had

had been given, by a Miniſter from *Great Britain*, of ſuch a Reſtitution to the King of *Spain*, there muſt be Conditions ſtipulated, and a Treaty form'd and ſign'd, nay, ratify d too, before any ſuch Promiſe can be allow'd to take place. And as for the Pretence of our acting in an hoſtile Manner, the contrary is manifeſt; and all the Potentates in *Europe*, except thoſe who are glad to make uſe of falſe Pretences, are pretty well ſatisfy'd that the *Engliſh* Squadrons were wiſely ſent abroad, not only to ſecure our Trade, but chiefly to prevent the Rupture, which, purſuant to the Meaſures taken by virtue of the Treaty of *Vienna*, was known to be deſign'd ſome time before by the Enemies of Peace.

The Infractions of Treaties are Acts of Hoſtility, which *Great Britain* cannot in Juſtice be charg'd with. But the contrary may poſitively be ſaid of his *Catholick* Majeſty: For his Conceſſion to the Emperor, in behalf of the *Oſtend* Company, is certainly a Breach of Trea-

ties: The ſeizing of our Merchant Ships in the *Indies*, under falſe Pretences, contrary to what is ſtipulated by Treaties, is an Act of Hoſtility, when Satisfaction is deny'd, after many repeated Inſtances for it: And the keeping a known Correſpondence with the *Pretender*, and favouring and encouraging his Adherents, ſo far as to make Warlike Preparations in their behalf, is a Breach of Treaties, and an Act of Hoſtility. Theſe, beſides others I do not mention here, are real Incroachments and Infractions of Treaties, for which Complaints have been made, and Satisfaction demanded in a friendly Manner, but all to no purpoſe.

Therefore nothing can be infer'd from this unaccountable Conduct of *Spain*, but that his *Catholick* Majeſty is fully reſolv'd, right or wrong, to quarrel with us, and diſturb the Tranquility of *Europe*. And the Reſult of ſo reaſonable an Inference, can be nothing but an unanimous Reſolution among all true *Britons*, of making all the neceſſary Preparations

rations for a vigorous War, to maintain whatever is dear to us, as our Trade and our Properties, with our Laws, Liberties and Religion, againſt all foreign and domeſtick Enemies.

The Thoughts of a true BRITON, *in* ANSWER *to a* Libel *entituled*, A Continuation of the Letters of Colonel *Stanhope*, *&c.*

A LIBEL lately printed here, by an Emiſſary of *Spain*, under a deceitful Title, and diſtributed by ſtealth, obligeth me, in anſwer to it, to renew the Subject handled in the five preceeding *Cenſors*. But, before I examine the unjuſt Remarks of the Libeller, with the falſe Aſſertions on which his Reflections are grounded, I think it not improper to ſay ſomething of the Character of the Emiſſary in queſtion, as may be gathered from the Method he has taken in contriving the Title, as well as Penning and Diſperſing of his Libel, called, *A Continuation of the Letters of Colonel* Stanhope *his* Britannick *Majeyſt's Ambaſſador*

dor in Spain, *and of the* Marquis de Pozobueno *his* Catholick *Majeſty's Ambaſſador in* London; *with ſome Remarks on the Conduct of the* Britiſh *Miniſtry in the preſent Situation of Affairs in* Europe. By this Title it was reaſonable to expect Letters different from thoſe before printed; but the Fallacy of the Libeller could contrive no other Difference, than that of his *Engliſh* in his Letters, which, being deſign'd for an Introduction to his Remarks, were diſguis'd in the Stile, to make People believe the Libel came from an *Outlandiſh Man.*

His way of diſperſing his Books was cunning enough too; for he ſlily left it by couples at Coffee-Houſes, where, generally ſpeaking, Men are pretty greedy at reading any thing, particularly when they don't pay for it. Without this Caution, as well as without the Diſguiſe of both the Title and Language of the Letters, it is probable the Libel would not have been read: Tho', after all, I don't ſee what Good ſuch a Reading

Reading can do to the Emiſſary's Cauſe. But let the Succeſs of his Undertaking be what it will, we muſt ſuppoſe his Deſign was to make the moſt of a bad Bargain: And from what I have ſaid of his Conduct, it plainly appears that he has acted the part of a *Crafty Man*; for which reaſon, if he deſigns a Second Edition of his Libel, I think he will do well to alter the Title of it, and take that of the *Crafty Man*; not only becauſe this Title will better anſwer his Character, but alſo becauſe he may thereby hope to ſell his Libel, inſtead of giving it gratis, it being likely that ſome People will be apt to take *The Crafty Man* for *The Crafts Man*.

However, as crafty as the Gentleman proves to be, he has been ſhort, it ſeems, in his Craftineſs; for he has not carried far enough his affected way of writing like a Foreigner. He has done juſt like a Man, who, appearing in a Maſquerade Aſſembly, with a Vizard very much like his own Face, ſhould think to come

off

off undiſcovered, with the only help of an *Outlandiſh* Garment. So that through this Emiſſary's *Threadbare-Diſguiſe*, we may eaſily diſcover a *Perſon* publickly known to be proud of being called *A True-born Engliſhman*; notwithſtanding his affecting to take any other Country's part againſt his own, provided thoſe Foreign Countries are pleaſed to favour his Party: So that this *True-born Engliſhman*, is occaſionally ready to ſide with any Country whatſoever, that happens to be againſt his own. As for Inſtance, he is now an Occaſional *Spaniard*, an Occaſional *Muſcovite* &c. And if thoſe Countries ſhould happen to fail him, by changing Sides, as ſuch things may be, and it ſhould pleaſe the *Grand Seignior* to protect this *True-born Engliſhman's* drooping Cauſe, there is no doubt, but this Occaſional *Spaniard* would change Sides too, and turn an Occaſional *Turk*.

The juſt and prudent Conduct of the *Britiſh* Miniſtry in reſpect to the preſent Situation of Affairs in *Europe*, injuriouſly

ouſly reflected upon by the Libeller juſt before mentioned, is ſo well ſtated in Colonel *Stanhope*'s Letters, particularly in his laſt, that I am ſurpriz'd at its being printed with the Libel: For, among Men of Senſe and Candour, that very Letter alone, is ſufficient to confute the Remarks made on it; except ſuch Remarks or Reflections as are grounded on falſe Aſſertions, which cannot be ſuppos'd to be anſwer'd before hand, and which, for that very reaſon, ſhall be the chief things I will now take Notice of.

How can the Occaſional *Spaniard* have the Face to tell us, *the Muſcovite Ships are return'd to Petersburg many Months before the vigorous Reſolutions of the Engliſh Parliament*, when every body knows that thoſe Ships did not ſail for their own Country again, before *March*; and that our Parliament ſat in *January*? But a bad Cauſe cannot be ſupported with only Evaſions and palliated Turns, there muſt be ſome poſitive Aſſertions made uſe of, tho' never ſo falſe, to amuſe a

Set

Set of Men who, through a miſguided Zeal for a Party, are always ready to believe any thing that comes from the E- Enemies of their own Country.

This confident Libeller aſſerts, with an uncommon Aſſurance, *that the Particulars of* our *Grievances relating to* our *Merchant Ships ſeiz'd by the Garde de Coſte, were never offer'd to the Spaniſh Court*; and then tells us, *That to a general Complaint, we could expect but a general Anſwer.* One would think, by this poſitive Aſſertion, that he is a great Man, either at our Court, or in that of *Spain*; and that he is angry, becauſe Application for Redreſs, was not made to himſelf by the Party aggrieved, which if they had, his Capacity and Good-will might juſtly have been queſtioned, notwithſtanding his having writ this Libel, and his affecting to take their Part, when, with a ſeeming Concern, he ſays, *How will the* Engliſh *Miniſters juſtify themſelves to their ſuffering Country-men, for not having laid any ſuch particular Caſes, as it is certain*

they never did, before his Catholick *Majeſty.* But I am afraid, this occaſional *Spaniard*'s real Concern, is not for the Loſs ſuſtain'd by our Merchants, but for the Diſappointment he and the *Spaniards* have met with, through the Wiſdom and prudent Management of our Miniſtry; againſt whoſe honourable Conduct the mean Reflections and Calumnies of Libellers can have no Force, nor any other Effect, than that of diſcovering their impotent Malice and Envy.

Sure, the want of the Libellers being employ'd in the Complaints of the Merchants, can be no Argument, that no ſuch Caſes were ever laid before his *Catholick* Majeſty, nor no juſtifiable Reaſon for charging the *Engliſh* Miniſters with Neglect in this Caſe! But, to expoſe the Impudence of this Occaſional *Spaniard*, I am able to juſtify, without the Knowledge of the Miniſtry, and conſequently without their Help, that there has been no ſuch Neglect, and that proper Application for Redreſs, in

ſome

ſome of theſe particular Caſes, was ſo far made to the Court of *Spain*, that the D. of *Ripperda* himſelf, when in Favour, could not forbear promiſing ſome Satisfaction to the Complainers, who had reaſon to expect it, had that Miniſter continued in his Places ſome Time longer.

The reſt of this Libeller's Reflections are ſo very weak and lame, that they hardly deſerve being taken Notice of. However, to ſhew how Ridiculous they are, I am willing to mention them here; and the rather, becauſe ſome People might otherwiſe imagine them to be more Material than they really are. And if the Anſwer to the *Enquiry*, which the Marquiſs *de Pozobueno* is reported to have writ, has no better Arguments in it, than the Libeller now in Queſtion has, I may venture to ſay, that his Excellency's Book will not anſwer his Expectation: Neither will it be as much look'd after, as that of his famous

Country Man *Cervantes*, Author of *Don Quixot*.

The Occaſional *Spaniard* pretends, that our finding Fault with the *Oſtend* Company is a new Thing, as a Paragraph of his, hereafter quoted, inſinuates; and yet, in the very beginning of his Remarks, contradicts that Inſinuation, ſaying, That Colonel *Stanhope*'s Letter is only a Repetition, in more Words, of the ſame Thing complain'd of in his former Repreſentation, except the Article that relates to the *Dutch* Men of War, which, continues he, We *are pleas'd to deem an Act of Hoſtility, for want of better Reaſons to ſupport* our *premeditated Quarrel with* Spain; *or becauſe* we *are willing, according to* our *uſual Generoſity, to eſpouſe the Intereſts of ſome of* our *Allies, with more Warmth and Expence, than the Parties themſelves think fit to do.*

Can any thing be more Ridiculous than the Libel I am now writing againſt?

gainſt? And, doth it not look as if it had been deſign'd, not for *England*, but for *Japan*; where the People cannot be expected to be much acquainted with the Affairs of *Europe*: Whereas all *Engliſh* Men know, or ought to know better than the *Japaneſe*, that it was the King of *Spain*, who made an Offenſive Treaty with the Emperor, at *Vienna*; and that *England* and *France*, &c. made, a long Time after, a Defenſive Alliance, called, The Treaty of *Hanover*? Sure, the premeditated Quarrel muſt naturally be ſuppos'd to come from thoſe who made the Offenſive Alliance; and accordingly their Conduct has, ever ſince their Treaty was made, confirm'd that juſt Suppoſition: So that what is falſly ſaid of the *Engliſh*, in this reſpect, is very juſtly, wholly and only applicable to the *Spaniards* themſelves, who, beſides their premeditated Quarrel with us, are extraordinarily Generous in eſpouſing the Intereſts of ſome of their Allies, with more Warmth and Expence than the Parties themſelves think fit to do.

And

And as for our Allies the *Dutch*, upon whom the Libeller's Reflexion was chiefly intended, it is plain they design to do for themselves, and for their Confederates too, as may be easily gathered from what they have done all along, and particularly from their Conduct in what relates to the *Ostend* Company, and their acceding to the Treaty of *Hanover*, just upon the Receipt of a threatning Letrer from his *Catholick* Majesty.

But, according to my Promise, here followeth Word for Word, the Libeller's Paragraph, wherein he insinuates, that our being concern'd against the *Ostend* Company is a new Thing. It comes immediately after what he mentions of Count *Gyllemborg*'s Business.

" One cannot help imagining too,
" that the *English* Ministers must likewise have forgot themselves, when
" they say, to reproach the Court of
" *Spain* with the Representations formerly

" merly made on the Part of his *Ca-*
" *tholick* Majeſty, againſt the *Oſtend* Com-
" pany, ſince the Reproach cannot but
" turn directly, and ſtrongly upon them-
" ſelves, for having neglected to pay a
" due Regard, in the proper Time, to
" thoſe Repreſentations, and to take
" that favourable Opportunity of join-
" ing with his *Catholick* Majeſty, in ſuch
" Meaſures as would effectually have
" put an End to the Trade, which
" *they now reckon ſo greatly Detrimental*
" *to the* Engliſh *Nation*, and their Al-
" lies, as to make the Occaſion, or at
" leaſt the Pretence of the vaſt Expen-
" ces, and infinite Difficulties, in which
" they are, at preſent, involving their
" Country."

Thoſe Words have ſo much Affinity, with ſomething I have read in the firſt Letter of the *Occaſional Writer*, that I cannot forbear thinking they were taken out of that Pamphlet, with ſome Alteration, for the worſt, in the Stile; or that the Wits or Thoughts of both theſe Authors

thors are pretty much jumping together. I do not know but the Letter in *Miſt's Journal*, deſignedly ſuppos'd there to come from ſome Gentleman of the College of Phyſicians, is writ by one of thoſe *refined* Wits.

The fooliſh Parallel, which the Libeller makes, between the *Muſcovites* and the *Amſterdam* Gazeteer, upon a falſe Foundation, in Reſpect to the Reſolutions of our Parliament, is a very inſipid Reflection; tho' perhaps taken in Part out of *Miſt's Journals*. And his Compariſon of what was done here, in the late Reign, about Count *Gyllemborg's*, to the Duke of *Ripperda's* being taken by Force out of our Ambaſſador's Houſe, is not at all to the Purpoſe, and will never anſwer the ſtrong Reaſons alledg'd by Colonel *Stanhope* in his Complaints on this Head, no more than the Anſwer given by the Court of *Spain* to excuſe their raſh, and unjuſtifiable Conduct therein.

The

The Libeller pretends, that the King of *Spain* is not at all ingag'd in Favour of the *Pretender*; becauſe his Catholick Majeſty denies it, and becauſe the Undertaking would be too difficult. The *Czarina* denies the ſame thing, and, to be ſure, the Difficulty may be alledg'd from thence, to be as great. Yet the Deſigns of thoſe two Crowns, and the Meaſures taken therein by them, are ſo well known, that ſuch Excuſes will make very little Impreſſion on the Minds of true *Britons*.

The Reaſon he gives for the King of *Spain*'s entering into ſo great a Friendſhip with the Emperor, as to favour him in a very extraordinary Manner; not only againſt his own Intereſt, but even againſt Treaties, is maliciouſly and very fooliſhly drawn from a pretended Neglect of the *Engliſh* Miniſtry, in not taking his Catholick Majeſty's Part againſt *France*, on Account of the *Infanta-Queen*'s being ſent back to *Spain*. But this is fully anſwered before-hand in *the Enquiry*, &c.

The Occaſional *Spaniard*'s Way of excuſing

cuſing the Court of *Spain*, for what the Duke of *Ripperda* had declared to two Ambaſſadors, in reſpect to the offenſive Alliance made at *Vienna*, and that Miniſter's unbecoming Expreſſions and Correſpondence with the *Pretender*'s Friends, is very unaccountable; for he pretends all thoſe Occaſions of Complaint to be a ſmall Fault in that Duke, which his Maſter ought to take no Notice of: And, to palliate what is done by others, he is pleas'd to charge our Miniſters with the ſame or greater Faults. Nay, he pretends that Colonel *Stanhope* made uſe of coarſe Expreſſions in that very Letter, which he has himſelf printed witn his Libel; without conſidering that his Readers, ſurpriz'd to find no ſuch thing in it, would not fail charging him with a Falſhood on that Head, But it muſt be ſuppos'd that his Libel, being calculated for People prepoſſeſſed in Favour of the Libeller's Cauſe, he will be believed upon his bare Word only, without any further Examination.

What he ſays of the King of *Spain*'s Pretention on *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon*, is

is fully anſwered already in ſome of the *Cenſors*.

The Libeller pretends, that Colonel *Stanhope* doth not diſown the ſending of Money out of *England* to foreign Courts: But if the following Words of his Excellency's Letter, are not diſowning a falſe Charge, I don't know what Expreſſions can be called diſowning a Thing.

" As to what you alledge in your " foreſaid Letter, of Money diſtributed " by the King's Order in *France*, *Holland*, " *Sweden* and *Pruſſia*, His Majeſty is a- " maz'd to find, that the Reſpect due to " Powers of that Rank and Figure in " *Europe*, has not been able to protect " them from ſo vile an Aſperſion; neither " is it to be imagined how ſo mean a " Piece of Calumny could be offer'd, as " an Anſwer to the Repreſentation I had " made concerning the Remittances pub- " lickly made from *Spain* to the Court " of *Vienna*; Remittances ſollicited o- " penly by the Emperor's Ambaſſador, " and demanded by him as Subſidies.

A ſhort account of the famous Siege of old Numantium *in* Spain, *&c.*

When we had firſt the News of the King of *Spain*'s Deſign of beſieging *Gibraltar*, I happened to be reading *The Fall of Saguntum*; and becauſe I found in the Dedication of that Tragedy ſomething remote from what I had read in an old *Spaniſh* Manuſcript I have by me, I thought fit to examine my ancient Author, who has writ about *Saguntum*, in the following Account of the Siege of *Numantium*. This Examination gave me an Opportunity, of reading again the whole Deſcription of the moſt ſurpriſing Actions that were ever heard of: Which, from their Singularity, together with the heroick Reſolution of the *Numantines* will, I am perſuaded, be very acceptable, at this time, to our *Engliſh* Readers; and the rather, becauſe my Author doth occaſionally relate ſeveral remarkable Particulars of *Saguntum*, omitted in the new Hiſtory of that City, the Fall of which has of late

late entertain'd the Town with no ſmall Applauſe.

Numantium and *Saguntum*, were the two moſt famous, and renowned Cities in all the Kingdoms of *Spain*; with this extraordinary Difference, among others, that *Numantium* never ſubmitted to any other Power, but that which the *Numantines* had within themſelves, and that they always refus'd the Protection and Alliance of others, though very much courted to it: Whereas *Saguntum* was protected by the *Romans*, whoſe Unfaithfulneſs, to that City, was the occaſion of its Ruin, through the unparalled Fidelity of its Inhabitants, to the then faithleſs Republick of *Rome*.

The other Things in which theſe memorable Cities differ'd much, were their Situation, their Language, and their Manners: Yet ſome People have prov'd ſo ignorant as to pretend, without any manner of Reaſon, that *Numantium* and *Saguntum*, were one and the ſame Place, although it is moſt certain, that their remoteneſs from each other, was as great

as

as the Diſtance reckoned between *Rome* and *Carthage*. Others have diſputed, which of *Sorio*, or *Samore*, is the Place where *Numantium* ſtood; and which of *Molviedro*, or *Siguenſa*, is the Town that was built where *Saguntum* was.

Now, having been at both Places, according to the ſeveral Situations allotted them by the beſt Authors, I have found ſufficient Monuments of *Numantium*, in *Sorio*, in the Kingdom of *Caſtile*, within 15 Miles of the Place where the River *Duero* takes its Spring; and of *Saguntum*, in *Molviedro*, in the Kingdom of *Valencia*, within twelve Miles of *Valencia* the Great; from which laſt City, whilſt I was *Inquiſitor* there, I often went to *Molviedro*, to viſit the *Chriſtians* and baptize ſome *Moors*, where I ſaw ſome Remainders of the Strength of the Place, which was near the Sea, the Antiquity and Extent of its Walls, and the huge bigneſs of its Tombs: And in the Fields and Lands about that Town, I took notice of ſome Stones, among the old Ruins, on which

ſeveral

ſeveral things were written, as Epitaphs made on the *Carthaginians*, and, particularly on ſome of the *Hannos* and *Aſdruballs*, who died at the Siege of *Saguntum*. Theſe, were two illuſtrious Families of *Carthage*, who were famous in martial Exploits. Near *Molviedro* there is a little Borough now called *Torreſ-torres*, and anciently nam'd the *Turditani*: Theſe People being mortal Enemies to the *Saguntines*, were join'd by *Hannibal*, who from that very Place, beat, ruin'd and burnt the great City of *Saguntum*, which was never rais'd up again, and which periſhed for want of being relieved by the *Romans*.

Numantium, took her Name from her Founder, *Numa Pompilius*, the ſecond King of the *Romans*, in the 18th Year of his Reign, and 58 Years after the Foundation of *Rome*; which had but ſeven Kings, of whom *Numa Pompilius* was reckoned the beſt. It was him who firſt introduc'd the Gods at *Rome*, that cloyſter'd up the Veſtales, or Virgins,

gins, that rais'd up Temples there, and gave Laws to the *Romans*.

This great Prince choſe, for the Situation of *Numantium*, a plain riſing Ground, juſt at the deſcent of a Mountain, near the River *Duero*, as ſaid before. This City was not wall'd then; neither was there any Towers; all its Fortifications conſiſting in a pretty large and tollerable deep Ditch round the Place. The *Numantines* were about five or ſix thouſand Men, the two third parts Soldiers, and the reſt Labourers, or working People. Exerciſe was very much commended, and Lazineſs hated among them; and, which was moſt to be eſteemed, they very little minded Riches, but were very ambitious of Honour and Reputation.

The *Numantines*, being naturally more Phlegmatick than Cholerick, were apt to diſſemble Injuries; for they were very ſly and crafty: And what Injury ſoever they diſſembled at a certain Time, they would be ſure afterwards, to find an Opportunity of revenging it. They had

had in their City but one Man that was a Tradeſman, and he a Farrier: For no *Goldſmiths*, *Woollen-Drapers*, *Mercers*, *Retailers*, *Tavern-keepers*, *Fiſhers*, *Bakers*, *Butchers*, and other ſuch Tradeſmen, were allow'd of there, becauſe, as they ſaid, every one ſhould have all thoſe Things in his own Houſe, without looking for them in the Republick. They were ſo expert in martial Affairs, and their Courage was ſuch, that they were never known to turn their Backs to an Enemy, prefering Death before ſuch a cowardly Action. They were never ſuffer'd to go in any War, without a Licence from the Republick; and then they were not to be divided, but joined together: For if a *Numantine* happen'd to kill one of his Country-men, though in War, he was to die for it as a Murderer.

The *Roman* Generals, were ſo far from entertaining any Thoughts of conquering the *Numantines*, that, during their Wars in *Spain*, which laſted 180 Years, they courted *Numantium* to ſide with

 them,

them, being perſuaded that the Power of *Rome*, could not cope with the Valour and Fortune of the *Numantines*, who, when deſir'd by either the *Romans* or *Carthaginians* to take one of their Parties, as all Princes and Republicks did then, us'd to anſwer, that others might chuſe their Generals out of *Numantium*, but that ſhe could not ſubmit to any other Power but her own.

Envy, at laſt, prevail'd with the *Romans*, againſt Juſtice and Reaſon; and they, offended at the *Numantines*, for perſiſting in their Refuſal of entring into an Alliance with them, reſolv'd to beſiege their City. This was in the Time of the firſt *Punick*-War, when *Numantium*, without Fortifications, was attacked with all the Force imaginable. But if the Beſiegers were vigorous in their Attacks, the beſieged were ſo far from being behind hand with them in their Defence, though they had no other Walls than their own Bodies, that the *Romans* were generally worſted, in the frequent Sallies the *Numantines* made.

This

This Siege continued almoſt twelve Years without Intermiſſion, during which the Loſs was very conſiderable on both Sides, but particularly on that of the Beſiegers, of whom were killed, among other great Men, nine Conſuls of *Rome*, who had all the Reputation of very expert and famous Generals.

After the Loſs of theſe great Men, the *Senate* of *Rome* ſent to *Numantium*, another Conſul, named *Gn. Fabricius*, with Directions, if he could not take the Place, to treat with the *Numantines*. This General, finding that nothing could be got with Men that were ſo Brave and ſo Fortunate, treated with them upon ſuch Terms as he thought the *Senate* would approve of: For he knew, that the *Romans* had all along deſired the Friendſhip and Alliance of *Numantium*; and therefore he agreed with the beſieged, that there ſhould be a perpetual Friendſhip, and Confederacy, between them and *Rome*. Upon this, a Ceſſation of Arms was ſettled before the Town, during which, the Senate being

inform'd of what was done, and thinking that this Treaty was not only too honourable for *Numantium*, but diſgraceful for *Rome*, refus'd to ratify the Agreement, and order'd the General that had made it, to be beheaded.

The next Year, which was the 13th of the Siege of *Numantium*, *Scipio* was ſent there, with a new Army; and the firſt thing which this Conſul, or General, did, was to turn out of his Camp all unneceſſary Men, and lewd Women, ſaying, that ſuch Creatures were more hurtful to an Army, than an open Enemy. He was one Year and ſeven Months before *Numantium* without daring to attack the beſieged; but, avoiding as much as he could, coming to Blows with them, his chief Care was to hinder proviſions from getting into the Town.

This Conduct exaſperated the *Numantines* ſo much, that they unanimouſly made a Vow, neither to eat or drink any thing, before they had eat ſome of the *Fleſh*, and drank ſome of the *Blood* of the *Romans*. And according to their Vow,

Vow, which was very Religiouſly obſerved, the Beſieged, like ſo many Fowlers, us'd to come out in ſearch of their *Prey*, which, when killed, were carried to Market for Proviſions. Beſides, they made great Sallies, which forc'd the *Romans* to fight; and ſometimes the Encounters were ſuch as might have been call'd Battles, particularly one, in which *Scipio* was in very great Danger, and had not his good Fortune begun then to favour him, the *Romans*, who were entirely put to flight, and chaſed with great Slaughter to their very Camp, would have loſt all their Fame in *Spain*.

Scipio was, by this, oblig'd to withdraw the Siege ſomething above a Mile farther from the City. And, when he was ask'd the reaſon, why he avoided fighting the Beſieged? His anſwer was, that the Valour and Fortune of the *Numantines* were greater than the *Roman* Power, and ſuch as could not be conquer'd by the force of Arms. Upon this account, he was often deſir'd to raiſe the

the Siege of that Place, and return to *Rome*; but, far from conſenting to it, he could not patiently bear the very mention of that Requeſt.

The reaſon of his perſiſting in his Deſign, not to raiſe this Siege, was the Aſſurance given him, before he left *Rome*, by a Prieſt, who was reckoned a *Necromancer*, that the *Numantines* were a brave and fortunate People, but that they were to have an End, which was decreed by the Gods to prove the beginning of his own Glory; tho' he was to expect very great Difficulties, in the Expedition he was going upon.

The *Numantines*, who fought more like deſperate Men, than like Enemies, continued feeding upon the *Romans*, whoſe *Corpſes* were quarter'd and ſold at Market, inſtead of Beef, Veal *&c.* And this was all the Quarter the Beſiegers could meet with, before this place. This was a great Diſcouragement to the Beſiegers, whoſe Loſs, increaſing every Day, gave no ſmall Hopes to the Beſieged

ſieged of an approaching Raiſing of the Siege.

But *Scipio*, who had often beg'd of the *Numantines* to ſubmit to the *Romans*, aſſuring them, upon his word and honour, that they ſhould be kindly uſed, to which he could get no other anſwer, but that having liv'd 335 years a free People, they would not die Slaves, finding that neither Force nor Intreaties could Conquer the proud City of *Numantium*, thought himſelf oblig'd to take ſome other Method with the Beſieged; and, upon mature Deliberation, reſolv'd to make a large deep Ditch round the Town, to hinder the going in, or coming out of it.

This Ditch, which was ſeven Fathoms deep, and five Fathoms in breadth, was ſoon made, to the extraordinary Amazement and Conſternation of the Beſieged; who, from this Time, loſt all the Hopes they had before entertained. No way was now left them, to come out of the City for Proviſions. They could make no more Sallies: Skirmiſhes and

and deſperate Engagements were now ceaſed. Their Caſe was really deplorable, though not ſo much dejected at their being ſore diſtreſt by Famine, as griev'd with the Thoughts of making no more uſe of their priſtine Valour. Their Love of Liberty was ſuch, that though reduc'd to the greateſt Extremity, yet they never had the leaſt Deſire of ſubmitting to the *Romans*, as other People, leſs Brave and Reſolute than the *Numantines*, might have had: But they, like ſo many Heroes, their Matrons not excepted, unanimouſly reſolved to die a free People.

Whilſt the Women and Children were lamenting in *Numantium*, and the Prieſts at their fervent Prayers in their Temples, the *Numantines* were calling to the *Romans*; not for Mercy, but for Liberty to come out, that they might fight and die like valiant Men, and not like Cowards with Hunger, lock'd up as they were: Nay, ſome of them calling *Scipio* himſelf, ſpoke to him thus.

" How

" How is it Poſſible, *Scipio*, that you " being a young *Roman*, and a valiant " General, could be perſuaded to deal " ſo unfairly with us? Can it be ſaid, " that you are juſtly adviſ'd in your " Proceedings againſt our City? No " ſure! Some People may, indeed, com- " mend in you a Maſterpiece of Poli- " cy, for having acted like a crafty Ge- " neral, in making uſe of a Stratagem " to work our Ruin. But what is this, " in Compariſon to the immortal Glo- " ry you would have acquir'd, had " you, by force of Arms, really Con- " quer'd us? For certainly, what you " have now done will prove no Con- " queſt."

And accordingly, the *Numantines*, being ſtill ſtrong in their Bodies, as well as in their Hearts, finding there was no Poſſibility for them to get Proviſions, without which they could not live, no more than without their Liberty, choſe a nobler ſort of Death than that which was deſign'd them by their Foes. For, after a ſhort Conſultation, the Stouteſt

of them, having firſt killed their old Men, with their Women and Children, gather'd the whole Riches of the City, and of their Temples, which they put together in a very large Hall, and ſet Fire to all the Corners of the Town; after which, to be the ſooner dead, they took the ſtrongeſt Potion of Poiſon they could get: So that they burnt their City, and died all in one Day.

Strange Sight! The Inhabitants of *Numantium*'s way of ending their Days, was no leſs ſurpriſing and dreadful, than their way of living, whilſt they fed upon the *Fleſh* and *Blood* of the *Romans*.

Thus *Numantium*, in a noble Pile, compos'd of her Inhabitants, and their Wealth, was left to *Scipio*; who had neither Riches to plunder, nor Men or Women to triumph over, the Want of which, deprived him of his intended Conqueſt. His concern was very great, when he ſaw the City in Flames. But when he came to the Place, and found there was nothing left but Ruins and Aſhes, and not one Creature living,

he

he lamented the Loſs of ſo famous a City, and the Death of ſuch a brave People; and, having ſhed ſome Tears upon their Aſhes, he cry'd out, Oh! thrice happy *Numantium*, whoſe End the Gods had decreed to be never conquer'd! It was obſerv'd, during the Siege, that none of the *Numantines* were taken Priſoners, becauſe they always choſe being killed, rather than be taken alive.

It was 466 Years after her Foundation, that the famous City of *Numantium* was deſtroy'd. And all Hiſtori do agree, that this Siege coſt the *Romans* more Treaſure and Men, nay more Honour too, than all their other Wars together; becauſe Envy alone, prompted them to attack the *Numantines*, whereas their own Right, or ſome Injury done them, were the Motives of their other Undertakings.

In theſe old Days, the *Romans* made War againſt three famous Cities, which were deſtroy'd, but never brought to their Subjection, *viz.* *Helye* in *Aſia*;

Carthage

Carthage in *Africa*; and *Numantium* in *Europe*.

The Authors who have writ of *Numantium*, are, *Pliny*, *Strabo*, *Ptolomeus*, *Trogus*, *Pompeus*, *Pollionus*, *Trebellius*, *Vulpicius*, *Isidore*, *Justin*, and *Marcus Aurelius*.

FINIS.